

Outline

- Brief History of POTS Development
 - What is POTS & why we need it?
- Brief Overview of POTS v4.x
 - Basic design and technical Architecture
 - Work flow and system features
 - NBS and external systems Integration
- Lesson Learned and Summary
- System Demo



What is POTS?

A <u>Purchasing On-line Tracking System that is used</u> for any types of purchase orders submission, approval, **tracking and management**

Currently 26 ICs at NIH are using POTS!

Not a contract bids or quotes management system; although these can be accomplished by integrating with Sharepoint or other repository systems; e.g. a separate web site for vendor to submit proposals/bids!



Why We Need POTS?

(What problems are we trying to solve?)

• End Users (Requester):

- Issues with paper-based procurement process (lost orders, late orders, wrong items ordered, duplicated orders, double charged, wrong delivery, vendors not getting paid, etc.)
- No tracking of order status (where is my order?)
- No consistent communication between requesters and purchasing agents (PA) (i.e. finger pointing)
- No central management of purchase requests/orders (PA out of office!)
- Manual and duplicate data entry into financial management system (NBS)!

• Purchasing Agents:

- No easy or consistent ways of complying and enforcing procurement policies and regulations (e.g. can we buy this or mandatory sources)
- Keep track of PO and contract awards, delivery dates, back orders, receiving and invoices

Management:

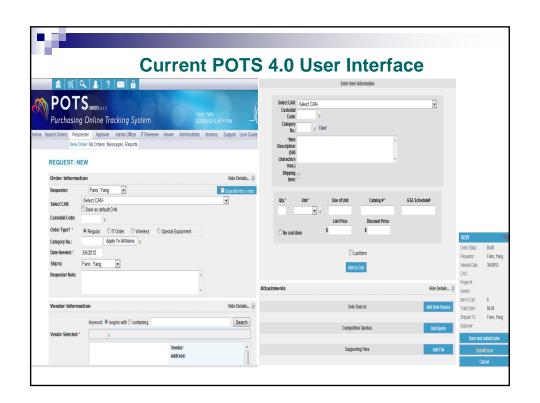
- Difficult to manage year-end close out and staff workload and performance
- No transparency and control over spending limits or allocated budget
- Spending trend analysis (level 3 and vendor data) and procurement audits!

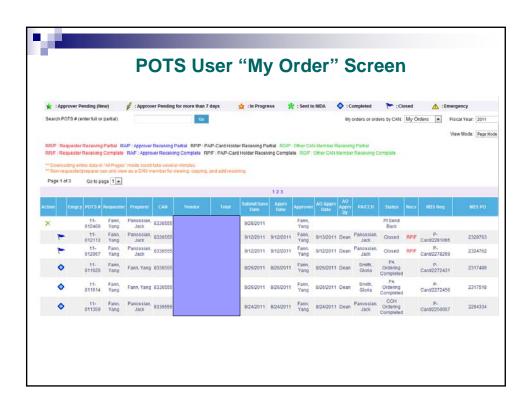


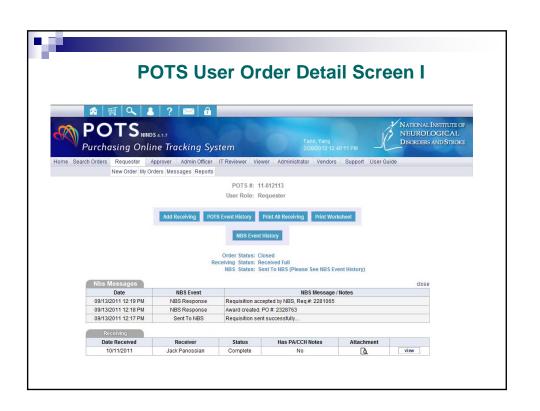
Basic POTS System Features?

- Cross platform (Web-based) internet application (PC, Mac and Unix)
- Requesters can...
 - Submit the order thru a simplified electronic form
 - Attach (upload) electronic competitive quotes
 - Do on-line receiving for faster payment and closure of orders
 - Check order status and progress at any time
 - · Be able to copy orders for repetitive ordering
 - Be notified via emails about orders status and if any problems
- Approvers can...
 - Receive emails and approve orders online with few simple clicks
 - Check status and summary of budget reports
- Purchasing Agents can...
 - Review and process orders on-line; update order status
 - Print NH1861 forms in PDF for audit if needed
 - Send back orders with comments if questions/problems
 - Auto-alert if new orders not processed over 5 business days
 - · Chief can re-assign work orders if needed or PA out of office
 - Send orders directly into NBS to avoid double data entry

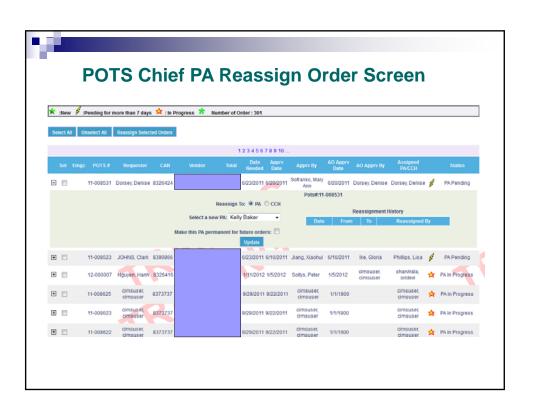
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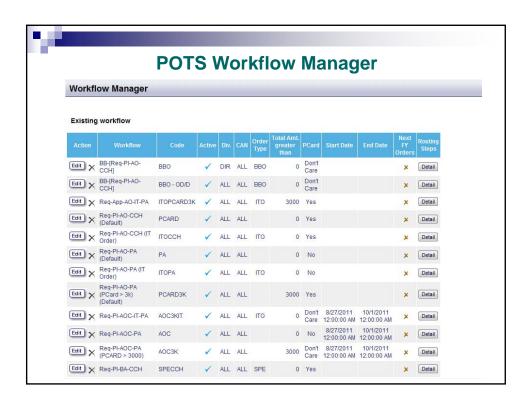








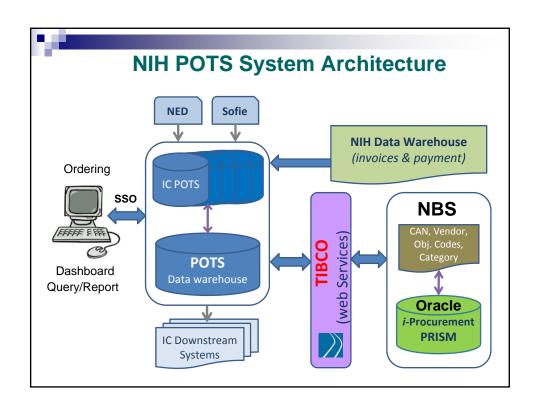


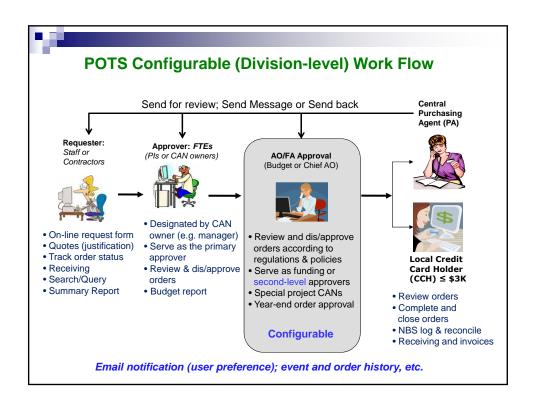




Current POTS System Requirements

- Web Browsers (IE, Firefox, Safari, and Chrome)
- Use NIH Single Sign-On/PIV Card Login (https):
 - AD account & password
 - HSPD-12 PIV card (with PIN)
- User Profile (NIH NED integrated)
 - Predefined roles (Approver, AO, CCH, PA, etc.)
 - Roles and CANs level access control
- Development and Database Technology:
 - IIS/MS SQL/.NET, C#
 - Web services (e.g. TIBCO) for data integration

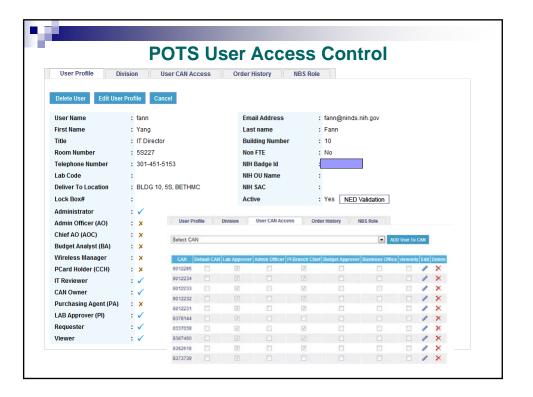


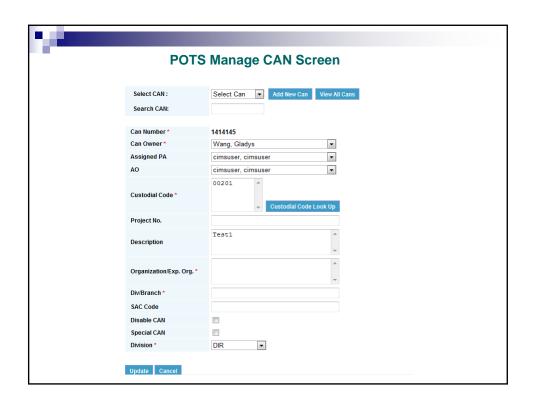


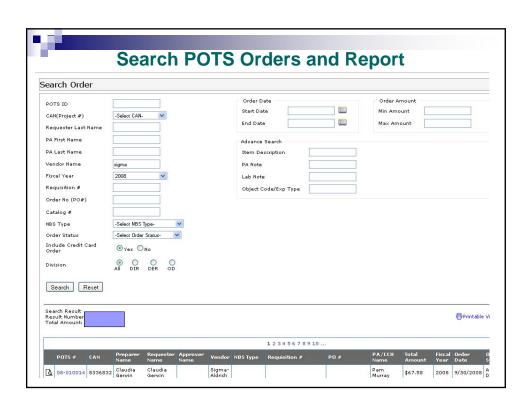


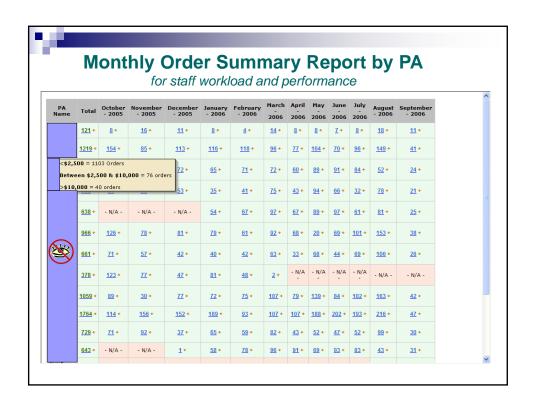
POTS – Roles Based Access Control

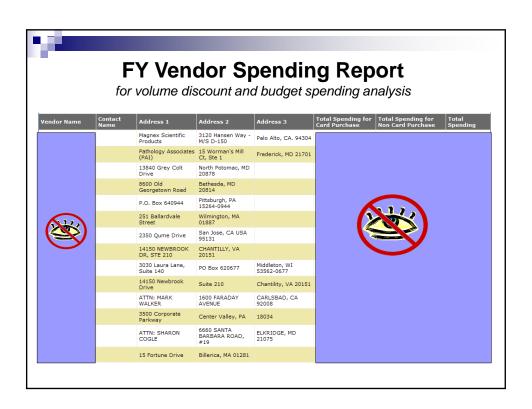
- Requester: The requester is assigned to common account numbers (CAN) and authorized to enter a order (for themselves or on behalf of someone else)
- Approver: The person who is authorized to approve the purchases on the CANs (e.g. Pls or managers). The approver must be a federal employee.
- Chief AO or Budget Approver: The person who is responsible for second level approving or for year-end, special equipment or large contract purchases.
- Computer (IT) Reviewer: reviews or approves IT and computer related orders.
- PI or Chief is the CAN owner responsible for all purchases placed in POTS. By default, PI or Chief is granted with the requester and approver roles.
- P-Card Holder/Purchasing Agent (PA): The employee who is responsible for placing the orders, updating the order status, payment and sending data to NBS.
 Chief PA can process and reassign any orders
- View-all-only: The person is granted to view all orders for reporting and tracking purposes such as property and management staff.
- System Admin: administrator for maintaining and updating user profiles, access control and CAN list as well as running varies management reports.

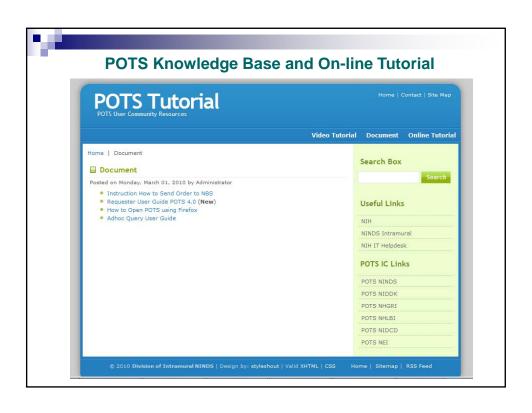




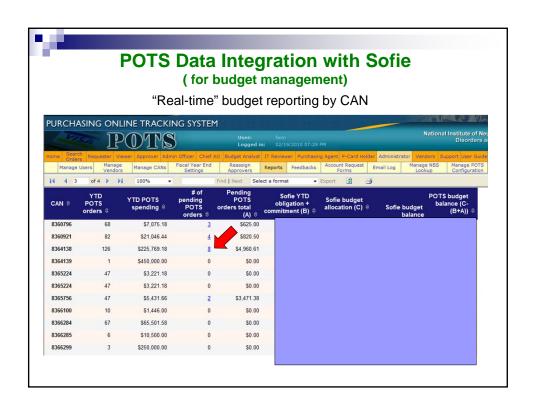


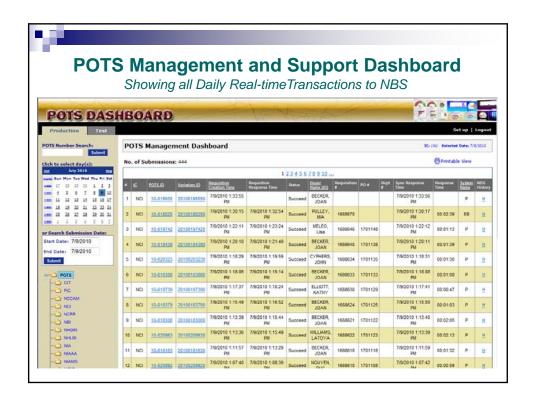


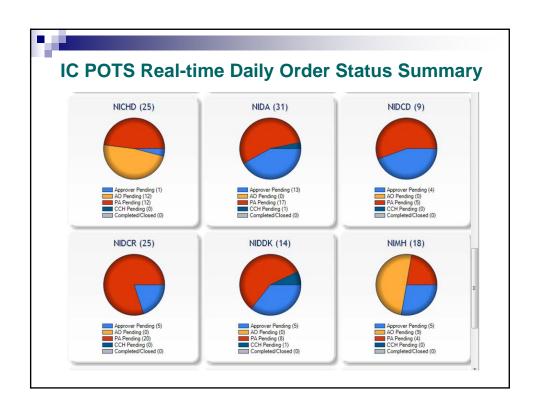


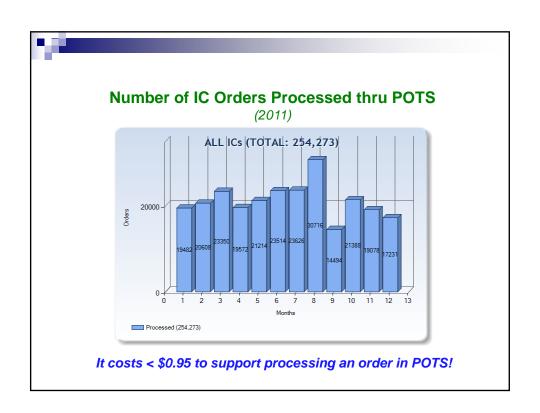














POTS Experience and Lesson Learned

- Currently used by most ICs at NIH and hosted by NINDS in the Clinical Center data canter; system C&A signed by NIH CISO and CIO!
- Technology may not always solve business (or people) problems!
- Gain support from the management and build user community trust
 - Convey "Change (to use POTS) is GOOD!" message
- Deployment strategy and planning -
 - Set internal policies for approval process and access controls
 (e.g. needs AO second level approval for every order??)
 - Conduct user, purchasing agent and credit card holder (CCH) trainings
 - Set up IC POC for application support, contact, and user feedback
 - Coordinate with Helpdesk and IT support staff for application launch
- Communication and engage with the user community!



Why POTS is Successful at NIH?

- e-gov initiatives (paperless) with a simple and innovative IT solution
- Streamline and automate administrative services to reduce burdens for scientists and support staff
- "Share" benefits and best practices within NIH and across the larger HHS community
 - Help other institutes with their challenges like yours
 - Share experiences (challenges and solutions)
 - Demo the benefits to the management
 - If any doubt, set up small pilot groups to test out
- Gain trusts and build consensus for common good (goals) (e.g. NBS and data warehouse integration 26 voices as one!)
- POTS user committee: members from each IC working as a team (community) with equal contribution and recognition



POTS System Key Benefit Summary

Communication: The system provides better communication (e.g. via email notification and real-time status updates) to end users, by allowing electronic order submission, approval, processing and receiving.

Collaboration: POTS is supported by a strong user community spanning 26 NIH institutes and Centers, where we share our best practices and experiences; it is simultaneously a grass-roots system designed by and for its users.

Transparency: POTS documents purchase details, allowing management to review orders for compliance and accountability; the procurement data can also be used for reverse auctions, volume purchases, spending trends analysis and funds control.

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Accountability: Every action performed is recorded in the order history for accountability, performance metrics, and workload evaluation. It is also worth noting that every computer and equipment purchase is tracked and accounted

for in POTS, thereby aiding in our assets management.

Efficiency and Cost Saving: POTS streamlines the procurement process and allows purchasing staff to send requisitions directly into NBS without requiring double entry, thereby enhancing productivity and efficiency. Over 20,000 orders are sent each month, saving at least \$1.2 million a year in labor costs. This greater efficiency has also allowed many ICs to process more orders with less staff and to funnel their savings into research rather than administration to better support the NIH mission.

Compliance: The system has built-in business rules for mandatory sources, green purchases and Section 508 compliance checks to meet federal procurement regulations and policies. It is also a "green" system which stores complete electronic records of every NIH purchase.



"A dollar saved is a dollar more for supporting biomedical research toward finding cures and improving the nation's health!"

Any Question?

Please Contact

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